

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02632 271607Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 271450Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 490

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: SADAT INTERVIEW WITH BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

1. LOCAL PRESS FEBRUARY 27 REPORTS ON FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW
GIVEN BY PRESIDENT SADAT PREVIOUS DAY IN MUSCAT TO BBC
TELEVISION. MAIN STRESS IN LOCAL COVERAGE IS ON SADAT COMMENT
THAT STATE OF NON-AGGRESSION ('ADAM ITIDAA) WITH ISRAEL CAN ONLY
BE OBTAINED THROUGH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB
TERRITORY AND RESTORATION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. SADAT
ALSO ANNOUNCED, ACCORDING TO AHRAM COVERAGE OF INTERVIEW, THAT
STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY TOWARD SOLUTION OF ME CRISIS PRESENTLY
TERMINATED AND ALL PARTIES CURRENTLY CONCERNED WITH DETAILS OF
COMPREHENSIVE AND PERMANENT SETTLEMENT TO ME DISPUTE. HE ALSO
MADE CLEAR THAT EGYPT WOULD NOT CONSIDER SEPARATE PEACE: "ALL
THE ARAB SIDES MUST SIT TOGETHER AND AGREE. YOU MUST EXCLUDE
FROM YOUR CONSIDERATION THAT ANY OF US IS PREPARED TO ACHIEVE PEACE
UNILATERALLY."

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02632 271607Z

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NEW AMERICAN ENDEAVORS TO ACHIEVE DISENGAGEMENT ON GOLAN, SADAT SAID: "AS YOU KNOW IT WAS SAID AFTER SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT THAT THERE IS SECRET CLAUSE. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THIS CLAUSE INVOLVED AN AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE A SECOND DISENGAGEMENT IN THE GOLAN." LATER IN INTERVIEW, SADAT REITERATED HIS OFT-QUOTED PHRASE THAT U.S. HOLDS 99 PERCENT OF CARDS IN THE GAME AND "THAT AMERICA HAS MAJOR ROLE WHICH IT MUST PLAY. IT ALSO HAS A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. I BELIEVE I WAS RIGHT IN MY OPTIMISM. LET US HOPE THAT AMERICA WILL CONTINUE IN ITS ROLE OF PUSHING THE WHEEL OF PEACE."

3. COMMENT: PAPERS TREAT SADAT REJECTION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON TERMINATION OF STATE OF "NON-BELLIGERENCY" AS DEFINITIVE. SADAT'S REJECTION OF FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS AND RULING OUT OF SEPARATE PEACE WOULD APPEAR TO BE RESPONSE BOTH TO CRITICS OF SINAI II AND TO SPECULATION (VOICED IN CAIRO RECENTLY BY SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS AMONG OTHERS) THAT SADAT MAY NEGOTIATE SINAI III AGREEMENT (PROBABLY IN SPRING OF '77) REGARDLESS OF DEVELOPMENTS ON OTHER FRONTS.

4. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE, ONLY HOPE SADAT WAS ABLE TO OFFER ARAB MODERATES WAS HIS CONTINUING CONFIDENCE THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO FURTHER MOVEMENT REMAINS VALID.

EILTS

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